

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 19590 221408Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

/102 W

----- 125309

R 221359Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7611

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 19590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 19590 221408Z

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO UK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: LONDON 19410

1. THE UK GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION ON INTRODUCING SELECTIVE IMPORT CONTROLS WAS TO DELIVER A PROGRAM WITH DOMESTIC IMPACT, BUT ONE THAT WOULD HAVE MOUSE-LIKE IMPLICATIONS OUTSIDE THE UK. THE REACTION HAS BEEN ALMOST THE REVERSE: DOMESTICALLY, THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM IS BEING RECEIVED MILDLY AS "TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE" WHILE INTERNATIONALLY THE MEASURES HAVE COME IN FOR A FAIR DEGREE OF CRITICISM.

2. THE TRADE UNIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN THE LOUDEST PRO-PONENTS OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, HAVE REACTED MODERATELY WITH ONLY CAUTIOUS CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. THE TUC SAID THE CONTROLS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING WERE MUCH LESS EXTENSIVE THAN HOPED FOR AND SUGGESTED TV TUBES AND AUTOMOBILES SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, THIS LOW-KEY REACTION STEMS FROM THE UNION LEADERSHIP'S (A) DESIRE NOT TO BURDEN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT TOO MUCH ON THIS ISSUE AT A TIME WHEN A HARD PUSH IS UNDER WAY ON OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS LIMITING THE REDUNDANCIES THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MAKE IN THE STEEL AND RAILWAY INDUSTRIES, AND (B) LACK OF REAL CONVICTION THAT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY HELP EMPLOYMENT LEVELS.

3. PUBLIC REACTION BY INDUSTRY HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE WITH NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT THESE HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE MUTED THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. IN THE TEXTILE AREA, THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION APPEARS TO BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MEASURES WILL NOT STEM THE FLOW OF IMPORTS AND ARE ONLY A "SOP" TO INDUSTRY -- BUT THEY ARE PRIVATELY WELCOMING THE CONCESSIONS AS BETTER THAN NOTHING. TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR BATTLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR MORE PROTECTION. BRITISH TV MANUFACTURERS AND THE SHOE INDUSTRY HAD BOTH EXPECTED MORE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DIS-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 19590 221408Z

APPOINTMENT.

4. PARLIAMENTARY REACTION BY THE CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION WAS MILD AND SHORT-LIVED. THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS WERE MET BY THE "SHADOW" CHANCELLOR, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, WITH A MIXTURE OF REGRET AND WELCOME.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN QUALITY PRESS HAS CONSISTED

GENERALLY OF POSITIVE COMMENTS ON THE BALANCED NATURE OF
THE GOVERNMENT'S PACKAGE. "SENSIBLE," "CAUTIOUS,"
"PRUDENT" AND "ANTI-CLIMATIC" HAVE BEEN USED TO
CHARACTERIZE THE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND SURVEILLANCE
LICENSING MECHANISMS.

RICHARDSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON19590
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750444-0120
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751219/aaaaaqrd.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 19410
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <07 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO UK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS
TAGS: ETRD, UK, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006